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COLLECTING LAND SHELLS IN EASTERN NEW YORK.

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Near the east shore of the Hudson, midway between Tivoli and Barrytown, in Dutchess Co., New York, is Cruger's Island. It has an area of seventy-five acres, and is so richly endowed with beauties and attractions—nature's gifts, which the owners have carefully fostered—that to the visitor it seems a place of enchantment. The scenery is especially fine; an almost undisturbed view for miles up and down the "Rhine of America," with the majestic Catskills some ten miles distant to the west, a beautiful background to the picture; while from its many winding paths are ever-changing vistas of water, mountain and sky.

At the northeast a large stream, the White Clay Kill, rushes down the rocks through a romantic glen and has its outlet. South of this, for a long distance, fringing the east shore of the cave, and having a width varying from an eighth to a half mile, is an extent of heavily-wooded land of perhaps two hundred acres, part of a park-like domain of Revolutionary days called "Almont." The soil is of decided clayey character, and there are a half dozen little rivulets coming from the hills at the east running through to the river. With their numerous tributary branches they have cut their way down through the plastic earth making quite an intricate succession of deep gullies.

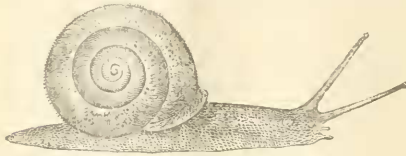
Here are hundreds of grand, massive white oaks, beeches, and hickories, growing so thickly as to almost shut out a glimpse of the

sky. It is a scene of primitive sylvan grandeur not often found in this part of the country. Great numbers of fallen trees and decaying logs are lying in every ravine, and the ground is thickly carpeted with leaves. It is thus an ideal home for the land snails, which flourish in abundance, and a "happy hunting ground"



Helix albolabris.

for the enthusiastic collector, who, if he pays it a visit during a warm, humid day of summer—just after a shower for instance, when everything among the trees is saturated, and the air is smoking with moisture—will find the woods literally teeming with Molluscan life.



H. palliata.

became quite a slimy mass, not conducing in any great degree to personal comfort, but who among the Nautilus people could resist a like temptation?

The writer on one such day carried home actually two quarts of splendid live specimens in his pockets, besides having filled all his collecting boxes. They speedily



H. palliata.

At such a time an abundance of *Helix albolabris*, large and beautiful, and *H. thyroides*, crawling about the logs, and traveling among the leaves; plentiful supplies of *H. alternata* and *palliata*, but keeping nearer at home; occasionally a *Zonites fuliginosus*,

—a very pretty shell when perfect: many of *H. tridentata*: *H. monodon* (*fraterna*), and *hirsuta* to be had on closer search among the stones in the vicinity of the falls: while down at the river's edge, on the rushes and weeds, are thousands of *Succinea ovalis*, and associated with them though in greatly lessened proportion, is an elongated form of *S. arava* of dark amber color, some individuals of which are found reaching 11 millimeters in length.



Patula alternata.



(To be continued.)